

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/02/11 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100020047-2

Approved For Release 2004/02/11 : CIA-RDP78B05703A000100020047-2

TOP SECRET

IAS - 16/70
28 January 1970
Copy 4

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Circumstances Surrounding Identification of Kovylikino
SA-5 Checkout Facility

1. The Kovylikino SA-5 Checkout Facility is located about 150 nautical miles (nm) south of Gorkiy, USSR. This rail-served facility consists of a support and storage area and a large operations area containing two parallel, widely separated equipment checkout aprons. The operations area is roughly a mile on a side and is triple-fenced. According to NPIC, a part of this facility was present on photography of [] The checkout aprons were under construction in 1963 and the first equipment was observed there in 1964.

25X1
25X1
2. The Kovylikino installation has been covered repeatedly by satellite photography, but until this month by small-scale photography only. It was reported by NPIC in a [] Mission Coverage Index in June 1964. The MCI described it about as it appears today except that no security was mentioned. The MCI noted that vehicles or pieces of equipment, not otherwise identified, could be seen on the aprons. At that time NPIC called the facility Kovylikino Area Unidentified Installation. In November 1968, NPIC published a Basic Report under the title Kovylikino Unidentified Installation, describing the facility at some length on the basis of eleven referenced [] coverages between 1960 and [] NPIC concluded that an observed slow pace of construction and a lack of observed security indicated that this was probably a "low-priority installation." An update of the Basic Report was issued by NPIC in September 1969, stating that more recent [] photography revealed that the installation was fenced and pointing out that large-scale photography would be required to identify the equipment and the function of the facility.

3. According to the CIA Member of ICRS, no large-scale [] photography of the installation was requested or programmed until the fall of 1969. At that time, the newly-formed Unidentified Targets Group in IAS requested [] coverage on the basis of its survey of all potentially-significant unidentified installations. The IAS survey, completed in October 1969, said the installation appeared to be military and judged that one large-scale coverage should be sufficient to determine its function. A request for [] coverage was also forwarded to the CIA Member of ICRS in October. Coverage was

TOP SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

[redacted]
IAS - 10/70

SUBJECT: Circumstances Surrounding Identification of
Kovyikino SA-5 Checkout Facility

25X1 programmed for [redacted] but the target was cloud-
25X1 covered. The IAS request was repeated and the target was programmed again
[redacted]

25X1 4. In our opinion, identification of this Installation required only
25X1 that it be covered by good quality, large-scale photography. We believe
25X1 that we could probably have identified the facility in early 1966, had it
25X1 been covered by good quality [redacted] photography. We choose this time mainly
25X1 because by then we had learned to identify SA-5 equipment confidently, and
25X1 by then [redacted] photo quality was good enough to permit identification of such
25X1 objects.

25X1 5. IAS makes special requests for large-scale coverage of a few
25X1 selected targets prior to each [redacted] mission. Recently, added attention
25X1 has been given to unidentified targets as a category, and we intend to
25X1 continue this emphasis. These supplementary requests should assist in
25X1 getting large-scale looks at unidentified installations [redacted]
[redacted]

Imagery Analysis Service

Distribution:

Cys I&2 - ADDI

- 25X1 3 - CIA Member ICRS
4 - ExecDir/NPIC
5 - MSD/IAS [redacted]
6 - SID/IAS
7 - ODtr/IAS